



County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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May 7, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen 
Chief Administrative Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Assembly Budget Committee Hearing

Adult Protective Services (APS) Program. On May 2, 2007, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services addressed the California Welfare Director's Association's (CWDA) \$20 million budget augmentation request for the APS Program. CWDA representatives provided testimony on the increased demand for APS services and the freeze of State funding at the same level since FY 2002-03. At the hearing, Cliff Allenby, Director of the California Department of Social Services expressed opposition to CWDA's request. The County supports the \$20 million budget augmentation request, and our Sacramento advocates testified in support of it. The Subcommittee held this item open pending the release of the May Budget revision.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

SB 720 (Kuehl), as amended on March 29, 2007, would facilitate the joint placement of foster youth teen parents with their children. Under current law, a foster youth teen

parent and their child may be placed in the same foster care facility if the teen parent is receiving reunification services for the child. Existing law also establishes whole family foster homes in which teen parents and their children are placed with caregivers who are specifically recruited and trained to provide a safe, stable environment for both the parent and the child. Currently, a qualified whole family foster home is defined as a family home, an approved relative caregiver, a non-relative extended family member or a certified family home that provides foster care for a minor parent and his or her child.

SB 720 would correct a drafting error in previously enacted legislation to expand the definition of a whole family foster home to include existing foster homes and non-related legal guardian homes. The bill also would restructure infant supplement payments for children placed with teen parents in whole family foster homes to the rate of \$858 per month rather than the group home rate of \$5,000 to \$6,000 per month. This would result in significant cost savings to the state and an estimated annual cost savings of \$1.0 million for Los Angeles County.

Foster teen parents in joint placement with their children in whole family foster homes are eligible to receive services designed to preserve and strengthen the family unit and to assist teen parents to provide independent, safe and stable homes for their children. According to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), SB 720 would expand these services to teen parents living with their children in existing foster homes and with non-related legal guardians who are qualified whole family foster home providers. The bill also would promote teen parenting skills, increase placement stability, and assist foster teen parents to successfully transition to adulthood. For these reasons, DCFS recommends that the County support SB 720, and we concur. Consistent with existing Board policy to support funding for parenting programs aimed at teens, provide services to strengthen parenting abilities, and facilitate successful emancipation, **our Sacramento advocates will support SB 720.**

SB 720 is sponsored by the County Welfare Directors Association and supported by the Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services, the California Council of Community Mental Health Agencies, the California State Association of Counties, the City and County of San Francisco, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, Imperial County Department of Social Services, Merced County Human Services Agency, Siskiyou County Human Services Department, Sonoma County Human Services Department, Stanislaus County Community Services Agency, Tehama County Department of Social Services, and Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services. There is no registered opposition on file.

SB 720 passed the Senate Human Services Committee on April 25, 2007 by a vote of 5 to 0. The bill is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Appropriations committee on May 14, 2007.

Pursuit of County Position on a Budget Item

High-Risk Pest Exclusion (HRPE) Program. The Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures (ACWM) indicates that the HRPE program in California is critical to the protection of the State's agricultural industry. Invasive pests from around the world and across the country pose a significant threat to the more than 350 crops raised by California growers. The State's agricultural industry contributes \$32 billion in production, and contributes over 13 percent of the country's food supply. Nine of the top ten agricultural production counties in the nation are in California, which produces nearly 50 percent of the country's fruit and nut supply.

The County's Agricultural Commissioner plays an important role in preventing the entry of invasive species threats through inspections of high-risk shipments being moved through high-risk pathways. High-risk pathways are those in which high-risk shipments are intercepted with a sustained level of regularity or frequency. These include parcel carriers, the U.S. Postal Service, truck shipments, and air/maritime freight.

Los Angeles County is home to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), the sixth largest cargo airport in the world. Each day, shipments of agricultural commodities arrive at 15 airfreight receivers from around the world and from other states. In addition, the Los Angeles and Long Beach seaports make up the fifth busiest port complex in the world, receiving countless containers of imported agricultural commodities. Adding to the volume of commodities arriving in Los Angeles County are 11 United Parcel Service (UPS) sorting centers, 14 Federal Express (FedEx) sorting/distribution centers, and eight United States Postal Service sorting centers, through which millions of parcels containing agricultural products sent by commercial operations and private individuals from around the world are processed. Many of the products entering via these pathways are then moved through the Los Angeles Wholesale Produce Market, the largest in the western United States, and numerous other wholesale produce houses for distribution throughout the state and country.

The California Agricultural Code Section 2282.5 provides for \$5.5 million in annual funding for County's HRPE programs. However, in FY 2004-05, funding was cut by 80 percent to divert funding to maintain border inspection stations. In FY 2006-07, \$3.0 million was restored, and the Governor's proposed budget recommends the same level of funding for FY 2007-08.

The ACWM recommends that the County request restored funding to the \$5.5 million level, and we concur. The restoration of funds will assist in protecting California's and the Country's agricultural industry from invasive pests by conducting point of entry inspections. Support for the restoration of funding is consistent with Board policy to

support funding for pest detection, exclusion and eradication. **Therefore, our Sacramento advocates will support the restoration of funding for the High Risk Pest Exclusion activities.**

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:EW:VE:RM:acn

c: All Department Heads
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California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
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